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City of St. Albans.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

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Public Health Department.

Dr. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Assistant School Medical Officer.
Medical Superintendent, Sisters' Hospital.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. W. McHUGO, F.I.C.,
Public Analyst (part-time).

MISS J. N. HUNT (joined H.M. Forces, June, 1943),
Secretary.

MRS. J. E. CLEAR (appointed September, 1943).

To the Mayor and Corporation of the
City of St. Albans.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present to you our Annual
Report for the year 1943.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 5,129.

Population (estimated), 41,090.

Rateable Value, £396,087.

Sum represented by penny Rate, £1,642.

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 16.1.

Death rate per 1,000 population, 11.0.

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births, 32.

Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	8	16
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	...	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	...	...	...
Influenza	3	11	14
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer	22	42	64
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	15	26	41
Heart Disease	47	58	105
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	7	12
Bronchitis	17	5	22
Pneumonia	14	15	29
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	5	2	7
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	...	1
Appendicitis	1	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases ..	7	5	12
Nephritis	5	5	10
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	...	...
Premature Birth	5	3	8
Congenital Malformation	5	5	10
Suicide	2	6	8
Accidents	1	3	4
Other Violent Causes... ..	2	6	8
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	...	2	2
All other Causes	30	44	74
All Causes... ..	198	255	453

Infant Mortality.

Of the 21 deaths of infants under one year 18 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria	4	4
Scarlet Fever	48	44
Pneumonia	7	...
Erysipelas	13	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	7
Sonne Dysentery ... ..	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...
Whooping Cough	60	...
Measles	856	...
Typhoid Fever	1	1
Jaundice	6	...
Undulant Fever	2	...
Pulmonary T.B.	51	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ...	23	...
Total	1080	56

Measles.

During the early part of the year there was a considerable outbreak of Measles but no deaths were reported.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	2	4	5	...	1	...	...
10	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...
15	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	...
20	3	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	2	4	1	3	1	...	...	1
35	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
45	8	2	...	1	3	2	...	...
55	10	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
65	5	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
Totals ...	33	18	8	15	8	8	...	1

Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, etc.

General Hospital—St. Albans and Mid Herts, Church Crescent.

Infectious Diseases—Sisters' Joint Hospital, Union Lane.

Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary—Oster House. Union Lane.

Emergency Maternity Hospital—Diocesan House, Verulam Road.

St. Albans District Nursing Association—29 Beaconsfield Road.

During 1943, 180 Maternity cases were nursed to which 3,200 visits were paid, and 1018 General cases to which 17,026 visits were paid. Visits have also been made regarding 120 Post-Natal and 907 Ante-Natal cases.

School Medical Service.

27 visits were made to schools for routine medical examination and 1,069 children were examined. 194 children were found to have defects and were referred for treatment.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria at the end of the year was 8,339. Of this number 2,976 were under school age and 5,363 between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

Wellington Court Minor Ailment Clinic and Sick Bay.

During 1943, figures of attendances at Wellington Court Clinic were as follows :—

Unaccompanied and accompanied evacuated children :—

First attendances	...	126.
Total attendances	...	1,908.

Local children :—

First attendances	...	166.
Total attendances	...	672.

Nursery school children :—

First attendances	...	1.
Total attendances	...	14.

There were 43 children in the Sick Bay during the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic—Wellington Court, Bricket Road.

The numbers at the Centre in 1943 were as follows :

Number on Register—Expectant mothers, 652.

Children (under 5), 1,520.

Number of Attendances—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 2,745.

Children (under 5) seen by doctor, 3,738.

Attendances, 8,095.

Average weekly attendance of 155 children.

Number of deaths among these children, 7.

Number of children referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, 322.

Inspections, Disinfections, etc.

Inspections.

During 1943, 2,339 inspections were made of premises including dwelling houses, grocery and provision shops, restaurant kitchens and cooked food premises, factories, bakehouses, cowsheds, dairies and milkshops and offensive trade premises. In connection therewith 788 defects were remedied.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Disinfection was carried out in connection with 79 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and 48 in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Forty-eight complaints of bed-bug infestation were received and disinfestation was carried out, including eleven premises disinfested with H.C.N.

In addition, the bedding and clothing was disinfected following the treatment of 131 cases of Scabies.

Public Cleansing.

582 cesspools received attention, and at approximately 120 houses pail closets were emptied twice weekly.

Housing.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	481
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	310
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Remedy of defects during the year without

Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	296
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Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Premises.

Regular inspections were made of food preparing premises, including bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, slaughterhouses and butcher shops, fish shops, grocery and provision shops, dairies, etc. They were found to be in a cleanly condition.

Examination of Food and Drugs.

During 1943, 122 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. The samples included fifty-nine samples of milk, four of lemon flavouring, three each of sandwich spread, egg substitute and meat soup, two each of fish paste, ground ginger, Worcester sauce, chop sauce, fruit sauce, browning, gravy powder, and lemon cordial, and one each of tonic wine, ginger wine, "Golden Dawn" Cocktail, fish roll, haricot beans (tinned), French mustard, mustard, ground cinnamon, tomato ketchup, tomato chutney, Piccalilli, vinegar, mayonnaise, beef extract, soup powder, omelet mixture, pudding mixture, custard powder substitute, custard flavour, black pudding,

Florida Delight, lemonade crystals, castor oil, camphorated oil, eucalyptus oil, tincture of iodine. boracic ointment, Friars Balsam, liquid paraffin, preserving tablets, coffee and chicory essence, coffee, baking powder and white pepper.

The milk samples were obtained during the normal course of delivery by the retailer to the customer, and it is interesting to record that no sample was reported against—the average of the results of analysis being 3.61% fat and 8.67% non-fatty solids.

The Public Analyst reported against the following miscellaneous samples, viz. :—

Sample No. 12, Lemon flavouring—contained 7.14% of Phosphoric acid in contravention of the Soft Drinks Order, 1943. As however the product was manufactured in July, 1942, the provisions of the Order did not apply.

Sample No. 102, “Golden Dawn” Cocktail. This product contained only a small percentage of alcohol, but in the absence of any legal standard the Public Analyst suggested that the manufacturer be cautioned.

The remaining samples were reported as being genuine.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

Twenty-two samples of “Tuberculin Tested” Milk, fourteen of “Accredited” and four of “Pasteurised” Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Seven samples of “Tuberculin Tested” Milk from one producer outside the City, failed to comply with the requirements of the Regulations and the matter was referred to the County Council.

The remaining samples were satisfactory.

National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

The Ministry of Agriculture has instituted a Scheme for the regular examination of milk as to its keeping quality, and the Ministry has requested the collaboration of Sanitary Inspectors in the Scheme.

In St. Albans samples are obtained twice a month from seventeen producers whose milk is retailed in the City and these are submitted for examination to the Ministry's Bacteriologist at Winches Farm. In addition the Bacteriologist's own Staff obtain samples at regular intervals at the larger dairies in the City.

Water Supplies.

During the year nine samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Four of these were routine samples from the Company's main supply, and the Public Analyst reported that the water possessed a high degree of bacteriological purity. The remaining five samples were taken from other sources on receipt of requests or complaints, and all were reported as being satisfactory.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

